

Children's Sermon

The Shepherd Boy Whom God Made King.

"There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep." 1 Sam. 16:11.

Saul was king of Israel, but he was a bad man, and God wanted a good man to be king in his place. So he sent the old prophet Samuel to Bethlehem and told him to anoint one of the eight sons of Jesse to be king. When Samuel saw the oldest son, he was such a fine looking fellow, that he felt sure he was the one he was to anoint. But God told him that he was not the right one. So he made the next one come, but God said he was not the right one. And the same thing happened until seven boys had come before him. Then Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons. He told him that his youngest son was out in the field with his sheep. Then Samuel told him to send for him. His father sent for him, and when he came the prophet saw that he was a handsome and healthy looking boy, and God told him that he was the one who was to be king in Saul's place. So Samuel anointed him.

We do not know much about David as a boy, but we are sure that he must have been a good boy, or he would not have been such a good man; and, if he had been a bad boy, God would not have chosen him to be king.

We know he was a brave boy, and that he asked God to help him when he needed help. One day while he was watching his father's sheep a lion came out of the woods and caught one of his little lambs and ran off with it and was going to eat it up. David ran after it and killed the lion and brought the lamb back. Another day a bear came and caught another lamb and carried it off. David went after it and killed the bear, like he had done the lion, and brought that lamb back, too. He did not have a gun to shoot the lion and the bear. He had to fight them with a club or with stones in a sling. He said that God helped him to kill them. God is always ready to help us to do anything that is right, if we ask Him.

Once there was a little boy in England who went to a Sunday-school where they read their prayers out of a book. One day he was watching his father's sheep, when a dog ran in among them and scared them so that some of them ran away. His Sunday-school teacher had told him that when he needed help he must pray to God. He thought the prayer must be gotten out of a book. But he did not have any book and he did not know how to read, if he had

one, for he had only been to school long enough to learn his letters. But he determined to kneel down and pray. Just then a man came along and heard him. He asked him what he was doing. He told the man that he was praying to God to help him get his sheep back into the pasture. The man said: "Why you are just saying your letters." The little boy said: "Yes. I do not know any prayers. I thought God could just take the letters and make a prayer out of them. He knows what I want." The man said: "Why, I will help you to get your sheep back." And he soon had them all in the pasture. When the little boy thanked him for helping him, he said: "I know God sent you to help me."

Not very long after David was anointed to be king the Philistines came into the land of Israel with a great army to fight against Saul and his army. In their army there was a great big giant named Goliath. Saul was very anxious to have that giant killed. But all of his soldiers were afraid of him.

One day David came to bring his brothers who were in Saul's army something good to eat. When he saw the old giant he told the king that he would go and fight him. The king looked at him and saw that he was just a boy, and told him that he could not kill the giant.

Then David told the king how God had helped him to kill the lion and the bear, and said that he knew God would help him. Now the old giant had on heavy armor and he had a man to go before him with a big shield, and he had a big, long sword. David did not have anything but a sling, and as he went along he picked up some smooth pebbles and put them in his lunch bag. When he got close to the giant he put one of the stones in his sling and threw it at him. It hit him right in the forehead and he fell down dead.

Then all the Philistines ran away and the army of Israel ran after them and killed a great many of them. The people were all so delighted that David had killed the giant that they began to sing about him. And they loved him very much. When Saul died they were very glad to have David as their king.

David had a great many troubles, but he tried to do what God wanted him to do. And if he did wrong he asked God to forgive him. So God blessed him and made him a great king.

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

Dear Presbyterian: This is my second letter to you. I live near the lighthouse and I thought I would write and tell you about it. It is situated on the highest point of Amelia Island. It is about a quarter of a mile from the beach and about a quarter of a mile in front of our house. Every time it revolves, it lights up our whole house and yard, and when we were camping on Tiger Island it flashed across the water and right into our bedroom. The light revolves eight times a minute. The tower is painted pure white with black trimmings. The big dwelling house for the light house keeper is also painted white. A number of our Fernandina young men will have to go to war as their numbers have been called. My brother is only 14, but he says just as soon as he is 17 he will join the marine corps. My auntie is a Red Cross nurse and she is crazy to go to France and if I were old

enough I would join, too. I will close, answering Mattie Tucker's question: Sampson was the strongest man and his strength was in his hair.

Your unknown friend,
Eline Scott.

Fernandina, Fla.

Dear Elsie: We all want to thank you for your splendid letter. I wish more of the boys and girls would write as interesting and instructive letters. We shall all be glad to hear from you again. Ask Auntie if she won't write us about the Red Cross.

H. A.

HOT IN TEXAS NOW.

Dear Presbyterian: My father takes you and I like you very much. I am a girl, twelve years old. I will be in the seventh grade at school next year. I have three brothers and one sister. My cousin is visiting us now. My father is pastor of the First Church here. I go to Sunday-school regularly. My Sunday-school teacher is Mrs. Burkholder. I like her very much. It is very hot in Texas now.

Your friend,
Elizabeth Paisley.

Dear Elizabeth: We are all glad to know you like the Presbyterian. Texas is not the only hot place this month. Why don't you write us something more about your State?

H. A.

A LETTER FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

Dear Presbyterian: My father takes your good paper. I like to hear the letters read. I wrote you a letter some weeks since; hope this one won't be too long. I go to the Presbyterian Sunday-school. My uncle, Mr. Charles Ghiselin, is the pastor here. I am five years old. I only have one brother, he is eleven years old.

I am sincerely yours,

Lucy Reinhart.

Shepherd's Town, W. Va.

Dear Lucy: I am always glad to get "second letters," because we feel like real friends by that time. Don't stop with the second, send a third and so on.

H. A.

SERMON WORTH THE PAPER.

Dear Presbyterian: As I have never written to you I am going to write today. I am a little girl ten years old and I live one mile from Chase City, Mecklenburg county, Virginia. Mother takes your fine paper and I certainly do enjoy reading it. She said that the "Childrens Sermon" was worth the paper. I go to the Presbyterian Sunday-school every Sunday. I have three sisters and two brothers.

From your unknown friend,

Alice Fair Williams.

Dear Alice: I am so glad to hear from you and to know that you enjoy the paper, and that you and mother like the sermons so well. Write again.

H. A.

CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN.

Dear Presbyterian: Here I come again. This is my second letter to you. My first one was printed so I thought I would write again. I can hardly wait for the Presbyterian to come so I can read the letters. I will close by answering Julian Mettean Byrd's question: Peter was the one of Christ's disciples that denied him.

Your friend,
Helen Bushmind.

Alma, Ark.

Dear Helen: It is good to hear from you again, especially when you say such nice things about our letters. "Come again."

H. A.

me in last year as the school was too crowded. I am the oldest of four children, three brothers and a baby sister. One of my brothers is with my grandmother in Buckingham county and we want to see him so much, as he has been gone for several months. My brother Clarence and I go to Sunday-school every Sunday we can, and I am learning the Child's Catechism. I want to get a Testament. Mother teaches my lesson every week and my teacher, Mrs. Roberts, says I always know it. Please publish this as I want my grandmother and Aunt Lelia to see it.

Your little friend,

Clara Virginia Brooks.

1012 Fourth Avenue, N. W., Roanoke, Va.

Dear Clara: I hope you will enjoy going to school and that you will always know your other lessons as well as you do your Sunday-school lesson. Write us how you get on in school.

H. A.